

LONDON (R) — A major international study on the environmental consequences of nuclear war has found that even a relatively small nuclear conflict would change the world's climate sufficiently to bring about mass starvation. The two-year study, to be published here Monday, is by 300 scientists from 30 different countries including the United States and Soviet Union, working under the auspices of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). It used sophisticated computer models to test the effects of nuclear wars of different intensities and found that even a "minor" nuclear war involving a tiny proportion of the 10,000 megatons of explosives in world arsenals could change the climate, thus harming world agriculture and causing starvation.

French endorses peace accord

PARIS (AP) — Former Lebanese President Suleiman Frangieh, a key Christian opponent of a Syrian-backed peace pact, on Sunday declared his support for the accord. "The solution is coming," Mr. Frangieh was quoted as saying. He was visited after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Bishop Andre Haddad told him the pact was the best solution for the Christians of Lebanon. Mr. Frangieh, whose strong support for the Christians of Lebanon is a firm Syrian ally, but had been considered an obstacle to the agreement proposing cuts in the powers of the Christian-led presidency and an end to a power-sharing system which favours the Christian minority.

Volume 11, Number 1362

AMMAN, MONDAY JANUARY 6, 1986, RABIA AL THANI 24, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Egypt denies report that Force 17 moved to Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — The official Middle East News Agency denied on Sunday that Egypt has allowed a 12,000-man unit known as "Force 17" to move its headquarters to Cairo. The agency, in an uncorroborated report, said a story in the Jan. 1 edition of the German newspaper Die Welt, alleging that President Hosni Mubarak had allowed the unit to move to Cairo after Israel bombed its headquarters in Tunisia, was untrue.

Bomb explodes near U.S. firm in Bilbao

BILBAO (AP) — A bomb exploded outside the office of the U.S. company Rank Xerox Saturday night, causing minor damage, police said Sunday. The bombing coincided with the last day of a two-day official visit to Madrid of Lord Carrington, NATO's secretary general. Lord Carrington met with King Juan Carlos, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Foreign Affairs Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez and Defence Minister Narciso Serra. The explosion shattered windows of the office and caused a small fire which was put under control by firemen, police said. Rank Xerox manufactures computers and photo copy machines, among other products.

Sabotage suspects in Kuwait said to be trained in Bekaa

KUWAIT (AP) — Lebanese suspects in police custody here on charges of conspiring to sabotage vital economic installations in Kuwait were reported on Sunday to be members of a Lebanese militia believed to be the Shiite Muslim group "Ansar al-Din," unidentified knowledgeable sources, the independent newspaper Al-Qabas said. The two — Abdullah Ali Karim and Abdul Aziz Ali Karim — were arrested recently after crossing the border into Kuwait from Saudi Arabia. "The two were trained in the (eastern Lebanese) Bekaa Valley," said the paper.

Israel welcomes Egyptian answers

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has welcomed Egyptian clarifications over the disputed Red Sea coast border and other differences between the two countries, an Israeli official said Sunday. The official described the clarifications, in letters from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, as positive and said they included provisions to return Cairo's ambassador to Israel and improve trade and tourism.

Khamenei to visit Pakistan

LONDON (R) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei will pay a two-day state visit to Pakistan within the next two weeks, the Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. IRNA, received in London, quoted a presidential statement in Tehran as saying Mr. Khamenei would visit other Muslim Asian and African countries.

Arab League rallies behind Libya against U.S., Israeli threats

• Tunis meeting adopts 'appropriate measures'
• OIC ministers to discuss joint Islamic stand

Combined agency dispatches

THE ARAB LEAGUE Council has adopted a series of "appropriate measures" concerning American and Israeli threats against Libya, a communiqué issued in Tunis said on Sunday as Islamic foreign ministers gathered in Fez, Morocco to discuss the U.S.-Israeli-Libyan conflict and other Mideast issues.

In the Tunis communiqué, Arab countries threw their support behind Libya in the prospect of aggression by the United States or Israel in retaliation for the bloody attacks 10 days ago on the airports of Rome and Vienna.

In the communiqué issued on Sunday, the day following the meeting of the 21-member Arab League, the organization said it had taken "appropriate measures" on the issues before it.

Sources at the League said, however, that the participants had "globally" manifested "their total support for Libya in the event that this country is the object of any kind of foreign aggression."

The sources told the AP the participants discussed the American and Israeli threats against Libya and considered that they constituted a challenge to the entire Arab Nation.

The permanent representatives to the Tunis-based organization — as well as the foreign ministers of Libya, Syria and Tunisia — met in secret Saturday night.

The meeting initially was called to discuss the possibility of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel, the recent resumption of relations between Israel and the African countries of Zaire, Ivory Coast and Liberia, and the Jan. 15 meeting in Damascus of the Arab-African commission for cooperation.

On Libya, the communiqué said that the participants discussed "threats by the United States against Libya." It also mentioned

A statement by the League secretariat before the session, called at the request of Libya and Syria, declared support for Libya in the face of Israeli and American "threats and troop movements, which can only have disastrous consequences."

Foreign Minister Farouk Shara'a of Syria and Mr. Turleki were to leave on Sunday for Morocco to participate in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Fez beginning on Monday and running through Saturday.

Libya was expected to seek a joint Islamic stand against the United States at that meeting. Conference sources quoted by Reuters said a last-minute item — "examination of Zionist and imperialist threats against Libya" — had been added to the 90-point agenda of the OIC meeting.

The U.S.-Libyan dispute appeared likely to rank as high on the agenda as the three major issues dividing the Islamic World — the Middle East conflict, the Gulf war and Afghanistan, the sources said.

The Islamic World has faced the three major conflicts for many years but Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said an improvement in East-West relations following the U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva could lead to a breakthrough in resolving them.

The Palestinian question and the status of Jerusalem are expected to be other major topics at the four-day meeting, diplomatic sources said.

Newspapers along the Gulf region on Sunday denounced U.S. threats to Libya, warning that any attack on any Arab country will precipitate more violence.

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda accused the United States of mounting military threats against Libya as part of a virulent campaign against Tripoli since the Rome and Vienna airport attacks.

The final point was "the hostile American campaign against the PLO which is continuing in order to liquidate the Palestinian cause."

Mr. Turleki, who expressed satisfaction at the level of Arab support at the meeting, told reporters before the session that his country was ready to defend itself against any attack.



Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed talks to reporters before his departure on Sunday for Syria on an official visit. In Mr. Kayed's right is Public Security Director-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali (Petra photo).

Interior minister begins visit to Syria

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed arrived Sunday in Damascus, at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghabash, on a visit expected to last several days.

In a statement upon arrival, Mr. Kayed said that he was happy to make the visit at a time when Jordan and Syria are strengthening their ties and bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Kayed said in a statement quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Ghabash also issued a statement in which he said he hoped the meetings will help restore normal relations between Jordan and Syria in general and initiate a new phase of fruitful cooperation between the interior ministries in the two countries.

The visit, the first by a Jordanian interior minister to Syria for more than seven years, follows close on the heels of a visit to Damascus made by His Majesty King Hussein at the invitation of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Kayed, accompanied by an official delegation, is expected to hold talks on security and travel between the two countries.

The minister is accompanied by Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the governors of Irbid and Mafrqa, and the director of Badia police, Petra reported.

Lower House deputy Naim Al Tal dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The deputy of Irbid in the Lower House of Parliament, Naim Al Tal, passed away on Sunday afternoon, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed announced on Sunday.

Mr. Tal, 67, had assumed several posts in the civil service and was a former mayor of Irbid. He was elected to Parliament in 1967 and in several previous parliamentary elections to represent Irbid.

Al Tal family is one of the biggest families in Jordan and its members had assumed and are still holding key positions in the government and various civil service institutions.

According to the present electoral law the government should call for by-elections in the Government of Irbid to fill the vacant seat within two months after it is notified of the vacancy. In 1984 by-elections were held in several governorates to fill eight vacant



Naim Al Tal seats representing the East Bank. Mr. Tal will be buried at Al Tal cemetery in Irbid on Monday morning. A big funeral procession is expected to proceed from the Hussein Medical Centre to Irbid at 8 a.m. on Monday.

Maltese tanker hit near Kharg terminal in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — Unidentified warplanes, believed to be Iraqi, hit the Maltese tanker Koncar on Sunday in the Gulf water south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, marine salvage executives reported.

No details were immediately available here, but the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit reported that the 62,000-ton was ablaze as a result of the attack and that its crew abandoned it.

Gulf-based shipping sources said that salvage tugboats sped from Bahrain and Dubai to rescue the Koncar.

Lloyd's said the Koncar was hit

at 13:00 p.m. It was the second such attack since New Year's Day.

Iraq said its aircraft attacked Iran's main oil export terminal on Kharg Island at 0637 GMT on Sunday and hit a large naval target in the Gulf at 0940 GMT.

A military spokesman said oil facilities at Kharg were set on fire. It was the fourth reported raid on the island in the past five days and the 66th since mid-August.

The spokesman said planes "accurately and effectively" hit the naval target. It was not known whether the spokesman was reporting the attack on the Koncar.

Heseltine may quit cabinet

LONDON (R) — Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine might be dismissed or resign in a cabinet row over control of the financially-troubled Westland helicopter company, political sources said Sunday.

Mr. Heseltine, a contender for future leadership of the ruling Conservative Party, has committed himself so publicly to winning the Westland struggle — in open conflict with cabinet colleagues — that he would be widely expected to resign if he loses, the sources added.

One government minister was quoted by the Sunday Times newspaper as saying: "Heseltine seems to be courting martyrdom — and he might well get it."

Trade and Industry Secretary Leon Brittan favours an offer by the U.S. Sikorsky company in alliance with Fiat of Italy.

Mr. Heseltine, a 53-year-old politician with a mane of golden hair, is backing that of a European consortium of companies from Britain, France, Italy and West Germany and major banks.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has kept a neutral stance, but aides say she inclines to Mr. Brittan's views and dislikes the bravura of Mr. Heseltine, known in parliament by the nickname of "Tarzan."

The rival rescue bids are each worth £70 million (\$100 million), but it has emerged as a test of strength between Mr. Heseltine and Mr. Brittan with Mrs. Thatcher as the neutral referee.

At stake is an immense market in helicopter sales.

Syria presses for implementation of Lebanese peace pact

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria maintained pressure on Sunday for implementation of Lebanon's militia peace pact amid indications of opposition within the main rightist force that signed it.

The accord was signed to be implemented, not to be left on paper as some people would like," said Al-Baath, the newspaper of Syria's ruling party.

"It is time to silence the guns of hatred and sectarian enmity and bury old grudges," the semi-official Al Thawra said.

The accord, signed by Syria and three main militias on Dec. 28 in Damascus, has met opposition from established Lebanese Christian leaders who distrust clauses giving Muslims more political power.

They won tacit support this week from hardliner Samir Geagea, chief of staff of the dominant mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia and known for past links with Israel.

"The Damascus accord is a project for war, not for peace. It endorses the factors that sparked the Lebanese war in 1975," said the "Lebanese Forces" magazine, Al Massirah.

Most copies of the magazine, run by Geagea loyalists, were seized by fighters loyal to militia chief Elias Hobeika.

"The accord of death river," ran the front-page headline, in a reference to an ambush against a key Hobeika aide who helped negotiate the pact for the "Lebanese Forces."

The New Year's Eve attack in east Beirut coincided with an apparent assassination attempt on President Amin Gemayel that sparked the heaviest fighting among rightist groups for years.

At least 12 people were killed. Mr. Gemayel has yet to give the pact his full support — vital if a new government is to be formed as envisaged under the accord — despite two days of summit talks this week with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"Gemayel is for the accord, against the accord and totally neutral all at the same time," Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri, a signatory, said on Saturday.

Some Beirut newspapers said Mr. Gemayel would face strong Syrian pressure to declare his support formally when he resumes talks with Mr. Assad in Damascus at the end of this week.

In west Beirut, pro-Syrian politician Antoine Alam was in intensive care after gunmen tried to assassinate him Saturday night. There has been no claim for the attack.

Socialist leader Walid Junblatt, another signatory to the militia peace pact, told reporters Mr. Gemayel was procrastinating in his talks with Mr. Assad to try and torpedo the accord with support from Israel and Washington.

"He agrees in the public but in private he procrastinates," Mr. Junblatt said, adding that Mr. Gemayel was awaiting an opportunity to "clamp down again on the forces of change."

Shifting missiles will not ease tension, Israel says

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli officials and analysts said on Sunday that Syria may have adopted a policy of shifting its missiles in and out of Lebanon, and warned that such moves would not diffuse tensions between the two countries.

A U.S. administration official and Israeli officials, all speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Sunday that Syria had removed the SA-6 and SA-8 anti-aircraft missiles it had deployed in eastern Lebanon.

It was at least the second time Syria has shifted the missiles back into its own territory. They initially were deployed after Israel said it downed two Syrian MiG-23 fighters in Syrian airspace on Nov. 19.

Israel has contended that the deployment hampered its ability to make reconnaissance flights over Lebanon.

But following news that the missiles had been removed, Israeli officials said the most serious threat to Israeli overflights came from the more powerful fixed SA-2 missiles which are deployed in Syria along with Syrian-Lebanese border.

The mobile SA-6 and SA-8 missiles were deployed to protect the SA-2 missiles.

"The major threat is still there — the long-range SA-2s," one government source who demanded anonymity told the As-

ociated Press. "Anyway, the fact that the Syrians have taken the missiles out now doesn't mean they won't put them back tomorrow."

Israel Radio on Saturday quoted the CBS and NBC television networks as reporting that Syria has now withdrawn the missiles inside Lebanon. The report was based on U.S. army intelligence sources.

Dr. Ze'ev Eitan of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Institute of strategic studies, also said moving the missiles between Syria and eastern Lebanon "creates an atmosphere of tension."

He said the SA-2 missiles were enough to prevent Israeli reconnaissance flights over Lebanon.

"And as southern Lebanon is a kind of no-man's land, with no effective government, Israel considers it quite necessary to know what's going on there," Eitan said on Israel Radio.

"From this direction we can be surprised by the Syrians or by various Palestinian forces or by... militias, and we think it is required for us to look what is going on there," he said.

Syria first deployed low-altitude SA-6 and SA-8 missiles in the Bekaa Valley. These missiles were removed, possibly after U.S. diplomatic intervention. But Syria then deployed SA-2 missiles along its border with Lebanon.

Iraqi leader confers with PLO chairman

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and President Saddam Hussein discussed PLO-Iraqi relations and the Palestinian issue at a meeting here on Sunday, Arab diplomats said.

Mr. Arafat arrived two days ago and also met Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The PLO leader is expected to arrive in Amman this week, according to informed sources.

Mr. Arafat, in an interview published in Sunday's editions of the Washington Post, said the United States, by refusing to negotiate with the PLO, has stalled the Middle East peace process and helped create an environment in which radical young Palestinians are easily recruited for terrorist operations by Arab intelligence agencies.

The Post said the interview was conducted at the end of last week in Tunis.

Israel has blamed the PLO for recent attacks and hijackings. In November, following the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, Mr. Arafat condemned terrorism against unarmed civilians except in Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Arafat called Abu Nidal, believed to be a key figure in several recent terrorist attacks, a

Mubarak receives King's message

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday. The message was delivered to Mr. Mubarak by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Upon receiving the message President Mubarak paid tribute to King Hussein's national and wise policies and said that together with the King he was making relentless efforts for healing all rifts among Arab countries and ending their differences.

Inter-Arab disputes, Mr. Mubarak said, tend to weaken the Arab stand.

He appealed to all Arab leaders to work together with all their power "at this critical moment in Arab history."

Mr. Lawzi commended Mr. Mubarak's stands and endeavours for ending inter-Arab differences and building a unified Arab front.

The speaker of Egypt's Al Shura Council, Subhi Abdul Hakim, and Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami were present at the meeting.

Later, Mr. Lawzi held talks with Dr. Abdul Hakim who paid tribute to Jordan's policies with regard to pan-Arab causes. Dr. Abdul Hakim described Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt as a significant development in Arab relations.

Mr. Lawzi replied by underlining the fact that his delegation's visit to Egypt was a follow-up to King Hussein's initiative for restoring ties with Cairo and for following up means for bolstering bilateral cooperation in all domains in line with Jordan's national policy and the need to bolster Arab solidarity.

At the meeting, Mr. Lawzi reviewed with Dr. Abdul Hakim parliamentary developments and the duties and responsibilities of Jordanian legislative authority.

Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb arrived in Cairo on Sunday on a visit at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Lt.-Gen. Ibrahim Al Arabi. Lt.-Gen. Abu Taleb said upon arrival that the visit was aimed at exchanging experience between the armed forces of both countries and for looking into training courses adopted by the Egyptian army.

"Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation is based on directives by King Hussein and President Mubarak within the context of joint coordination which I hope will continue and expand," Lt.-Gen. Abu Taleb said.

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Iraq expects eventual peace talks with Iran

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was reported Sunday as saying Iran would one day sit at the negotiating table, but he could not predict an end to the Gulf war this year.

"As a politician, I can't say that the war will end this year," he was quoted as telling Al-Sayassah newspaper in an interview. "But one day Iran will sit at the negotiating table."

He said that from a military viewpoint, the five-year-old war had been decided in Iraq's favour. In 1983 after the battles of east Misan on the south-central front. He said Iran was mobilising for a fresh offensive to cover up internal problems, but he forecast an attack would end in defeat for the Iraqis with major political repercussions.

Iran, he said, was suffering from "basic economic and social problems," and had yet to settle satisfactorily the question of political leadership.

"Tehran has failed to establish the 'religious heritage' rule as a factor in Iran's politics," he said. "The Iranians don't want to continue the Khomeini experience, but if they do not, then it means this whole experience has failed."

Mr. Aziz said Iraq had managed to put a stop to deals through which Iran obtained its most important weapons through Syria and Libya. "So Iran can no longer buy advanced weapons."

He said the Soviet Union realised some of its weapons were reaching Iran, but he believed Moscow would "make greater efforts to stop this."

He suggested Iranian efforts to

stop weapons reaching Iraq from France, which has supplied it for 10 years, were futile.

"Through Iraq, Paris has a market for its weapons in the Gulf states, which is certainly more profitable for it than dealing with Iran would be," he said.

Mr. Aziz said it was Iraq's policy to deal with the major powers from a position of strength, and when it restored ties last year with the United States it sought on more than normal relations and what he called a political understanding. "We were not seeking military or economic support," he said.

Moscow's policy in the region, he said, was linked to security so neighbouring relations were important. But, "the Soviet attitude (to Iran) has changed, despite the fact they want to maintain balanced relations with their neighbours."

The Iraqi foreign minister warned that Arab powers of the Gulf region "risk internal security losses" if they failed to support Iraq in its war with Iran.

"The Arab countries of the Gulf region are practically at war with Iran (on the Iraqi side) whether they conceded that or not," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz said that Iraq would not "demand that these (Arab) powers brandish their weapons in Iran's face ... but what we ask is

that they support Iraq until Iran accepts to end the war."

"Internal security and stability of the Arab countries is indivisible, and whoever (of the Arab leaders) acquires an early awareness of this fact will be a winner," said Mr. Aziz. "Those who fail to realise this indivisibility will be a loser, as far as (his) internal security is concerned."

The Arab countries of the Gulf have officially adopted an attitude of positive neutrality on the five-year-old war between their bigger neighbours, Iran and Iraq. But some of these Arab powers — mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — have been reliably reported to be backing Iraq against Iran, with financial and moral aid.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are prominent members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a regional economic integration and collective defence pact that also groups the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman.

The GCC countries have been exerting themselves to bring the warring sides to a negotiating table often offering to pool money for a post-war reconstruction and development programme in Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Aziz was not clear on the nature of "internal security losses" that he thought the Gulf Arab countries would sustain if they failed to blatantly side with Iraq against Iran.

Arab diplomatic sources said he probably meant that nationalist feelings among the populace would run counter to the official line of neutrality in these Gulf



Tariq Aziz

countries.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have suffered on account of offshoots of the Gulf war — their commercial vessels have been raided by Iraqi and Iranian jet fighters, and Kuwait's economic installations were frequently sabotaged by suicidal raiders allegedly of pro-Iranian tendencies.

"If the Gulf powers fear Iran's military might — hegemony, military occupation or seizure of territory — then I say Iran is utterly not capable of doing that," said Mr. Aziz. "Iran has exhausted all that it has in the war with Iraq. The Iraqis no longer possess any (military) reserve strength to use against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain or Qatar."

Mr. Aziz contended that Iran's military strength is "basically made up of infantry units, without any navy or air muscle."

"Iran can only muster forces on the ground and merely in regions adjacent to Iraq," Mr. Aziz claimed. "Iran cannot possibly penetrate the sea and air defences of the Gulf countries."

"Practically, the war is logically ended, and the Iranian leadership should have conceded that reality in 1983," he said.

Israel holds 2 in taxi driver killing

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Palestinian youths were arrested on suspicion of killing a Jewish taxi driver, and they may be linked to an earlier attack of another driver, police said Sunday.

The attacks have provoked anti-Arab sentiments in Lod, where the killing occurred, an Israeli newspaper reported Sunday.

Lod Mayor Maxim Levy wrote to Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other officials calling for the destruction of Palestinian neighbourhoods, the Ma'ariv newspaper said.

Levy, brother of Deputy Premier David Levy from the right-wing Likud Bloc, wrote that the neighbourhoods served as a "weapons arsenal" for anti-Israeli commandos, Ma'ariv said.

"The trouble is that the government doesn't understand that in the Lod-Ramle area there exists a dangerous base which threatens the security of the people," Levy was quoted in Ma'ariv.

Yaacov Papiashvili, was shot twice in the head from close range on Jan. 2 while in his taxi on the outskirts of Lod, 20 kilometres south east of Tel Aviv, police said.

Police are investigating possible connections between the killing and a Dec. 31 attack on another Jewish cab driver 25-year-old Avraham Levy, who was stabbed while driving near Lod, the newspaper reported.

Lod, a biblical city on the border of the Judean foothills, has a population of about 40,000, including some 5,000 Palestinians.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday on Israeli television that a small group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's elite "Force 17" bodyguard unit had claimed responsibility for killing Papiashvili.

Italy against retaliation for attacks

ROME (R) — Italy is standing firm in its opposition to any military retaliation for the commando attacks at Rome and Vienna airports despite increasing tension in the Mediterranean area, government sources said.

The United States is studying possible military and economic moves against Libya, which it has accused of supporting the twin attacks on Dec. 27.

But the Italian government will not support any allied military action in the area, the sources said Saturday night.

They said the Italian position had been reaffirmed at a special meeting of a government security committee called by Prime Minister Bettino Craxi to discuss the alleged Libyan role in the attacks. Nineteen people were killed in the violence.

Ministers and Mr. Craxi's office declined comment on the three-

hour meeting.

But the government sources said it had supported a statement by Mr. Craxi that Italy would have to reconsider its relations with Tripoli if Libya proved to have been involved in violence.

Libya has denied any part in the attacks, calling them "very regrettable accidents," and saying it would seek Arab League support against what it called U.S. threats against itself.

Washington has sent an aircraft carrier from Naples towards Libya and has alerted two warships in the U.S. for the 10-day trip to the Mediterranean.

The Arab League Saturday declared its support for Libya and denounced Israeli and American "threats and troops movements which can only have disastrous consequences."

Egypt has warned the U.S. and Israel against retaliatory attacks

on Libya, saying they could lead to a dangerous chain of reactions while Kuwait said it opposed threats to Arab states.

Italian Interior Minister Oscar Scalfaro met his Spanish counterpart Jose Barrionuevo on Saturday for talks on common strategy against international terrorism, officials said.

The meeting was arranged before the Dec. 27 attacks, they said. The sole survivor of the four commandos who staged the gun-and-grenade attack at Rome's Fiumicino Airport was Saturday taken around the capital so that he could reconstruct the group's movements before the raid, police said.

Mohammad Sarhan was driven around in an ambulance, heavily escorted by police cars, before being taken back to a military hospital where he is recovering from bullet wounds, they said.

Internal rivalry reportedly prompting Amal to launch more attacks in South

TEL AVIV (AP) — Internal rivalry is prompting the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia in South Lebanon to launch more attacks against Israel and its militia ally, an Israeli newspaper reported Sunday.

The daily Haaretz newspaper quoted Israeli military leaders as saying that Amal's increasing involvement in anti-Israeli attacks was the most significant factor prompting a recent upsurge in commando attacks aimed at Israel's northern border.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said in a written report that attacks had "escalated sharply" in South Lebanon since Dec. 28, the Jerusalem Post reported that 14 rocket attacks were aimed at Israel last week.

Not all the rockets have hit Israel and no Israelis have been injured. But one Soviet-made Katyusha rocket last Thursday damaged cars and buildings in the bor-

der town of Kiryat Shmona.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres and a group of cabinet ministers scheduled a special meeting this week to discuss Kiryat Shmona's security needs, Peres' office said.

Haaretz quoted the military leaders, who it did not identify, as saying that Amal had been pressured by Lebanese commando groups and by Syria to step up the fighting against Israel.

Deputy Premier David Levy of the right-wing Likud Bloc called on residents of South Lebanon to police themselves and prevent attacks.

"They can and must prevent these attacks," Levy said on Israel Radio. "Things can be done if the heads of the community there understand the possible consequences and if they establish a security zone for themselves."

The military officials quoted by Haaretz said Amal had begun to cooperate with the Palestinian commandos, the newspaper rep-

orted. It said Amal provided support for Palestinian commandos who ambushed two South Lebanese army militia vehicles last Monday, killing two militiamen and wounding five other soldiers, including one Israeli.

But Western diplomatic sources in South Lebanon, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that Amal was still mulling checkpoints and preventing Palestinian attacks against Israel.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 in a campaign Israeli officials said was aimed at driving out Palestinian commandos who they blamed for attacking border settlements in the north.

After Israel ended a three-year campaign and withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon last June, Israeli officials hoped Amal would control the more militant forces in the area, including Iranian-backed fundamentalist Shi'ite Muslim groups.

Snipers prowl Beirut's 'Green Line' despite pact

By John Fullerton
Reuters

BEIRUT (R) — A friend of kidnapped American Priest Lawrence Martin Jenco has offered his captors \$5,000 to help repair war damage in Lebanon, the Beirut daily An-Nahar reported Sunday.

"I want you to accept it as a little step in helping you rebuild your homeland. Your sons and mine are the true victims of any war," said an open letter to the kidnappers sent from Canada and published in part and anonymously in the paper.

Rev. Jenco, head of a U.S.-based Roman Catholic Relief Organisation in Beirut, should be freed "to enable him to continue his work. He has a lot to do," it said.

The kidnappers have threatened to kill Rev. Jenco and three other American hostages if Washington fails to press Kuwait to free 17 men imprisoned for bombings there in 1983. Eight other Western kidnap victims are also missing.

The newspaper said the letter's author identified himself as a friend of Rev. Jenco. The kidnappers were asked to contact the paper for the full text, it said.

barackroom.

The peace pact is said to provide for the removal of the signs of war — and Beirut's 10 kilometre buffer zone is perhaps the most obvious symbol of the decade-long conflict.

Tayyounieh is manned round the clock by about 150 men from the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia, who work closely here with fighters from the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

They merely shrug when the local Amal commander says the Syrian-backed peace accord had just been signed.

"It's just a truce that will last maybe one year," says 19-year-old Abu Taha. But he adds that it has been a quiet day in his sector — one of the quietest for two years.

In the distance we could hear the steady thud of a heavy 12.7 mm machinegun and as we made our way forward, running, ducking and flattening ourselves against walls as sniper fire cracked overhead. For these young fighters, it was routine.

Abu Rabbih, a 16-year-old, is doubtful over prospects for peace

on the Green Line, which divides Beirut's Muslim-controlled west from the Falangist east. "We want peace, but we don't know about the people on the other side," he says.

"We'll follow Amal's orders," says 19-year-old Abu Ali.

Fighting on the Green Line, established in the turmoil of the war's early months, is usually an accurate indicator of tension. In many periods of the conflict it has lain dormant.

But the front sprang back to menacing life in February last year when opposition fighters seized west Beirut from army units loyal to President Amin Gemayel. Battles raged along its length, from Beirut port in the north to Shwifat in the south.

Tension has remained high, and all but two back roads across the line have been closed since March last year.

One of its snipers, a 21-year-old known simply as "the Soviet," cradles an M-16 rifle fitted with a telescopic sight in his arms. He has been fighting for four years and says he believes he has killed between 15 and 20 people. "My job is

to hurt the people who are hurting my people," he says.

The Soviet sleeps late, has breakfast, prowls the line for possible targets — he says he never fires at women or children — and retires to his room to scan death lists in newspapers to see if anyone he or his men have shot at has died.

Sometimes the rival militiamen, only a few metres apart in places, put down their guns and engage in a war of words. "We curse each other and ask the other side if so-and-so is still alive," the Soviet says.

Sleep is often difficult, and not just because of the noise of battle. The Soviet's wife and three-year-old son sleep in a building close to the barricades of earth, concrete bunkers and palisades of brick and sand. "My work makes me psychologically tired and sometimes I cannot sleep," he says.

Will there be peace on the Green Line? "I was born to this world. There's blood now between the two sides. No, I don't think so," he says.

Anti-torture campaign waged in Turkey

By Emel Anil
Associated Press

ANKARA (R) — Police picked up Ali Inan, 17, on an Istanbul street Sept. 11, 1980, a day before the military takeover of the government. Seventeen days later, Inan's father found his son's body in a morgue.

The autopsy report said the high school student died of cerebral hemorrhaging resulting from a severe blow to the head. The medical examiner found contusions on 40 different parts of the body.

Inan had been taken to Harpaza Military Hospital directly from the police station where he was being questioned, hospital documents say.

Bekir Inan, who tracked down his son's body to the morgue, demanded justice and pursued the case. Five years later six policemen present during the boy's interrogation have been brought before an Istanbul criminal court on charges of causing death by torture.

The boy was detained on suspicion of belonging to an extreme leftist group, but his death forced an extreme trial and his father denies the charge.

Such incidents, critics say, are not at all unusual in Turkey. "This has got to stop," said Cussey Canver, an opposition Social Democrat deputy to par-

liament.

"It can happen to anybody," Mr. Canver said in an interview with the Associated Press. "It can happen to you."

Mr. Canver spoke in his parliament office at a meeting along with Bekir Inan, who was seeking the legislator's assistance in speeding up the trial of the men accused of his son's death.

"We are all mortal," Mr. Inan said. "It is not his death I mind so much as the inhuman way he died, without dignity, at the hand of officials who are supposed to protect us."

Mr. Canver, 33, a lawyer elected to parliament two years ago when civilian rule was restored, is part of a small but increasingly vocal group of Turks crusading to eradicate torture in Turkey's prisons and police stations.

Another is Erbil Tusalp, correspondent for leftist daily Cumhuriyet, who has written a book on human rights and specific cases of torture. His "one thousand men" made the best seller list last month.

Military and civilian officials deny the existence of systematic and widespread torture in Turkey. However, they admit there have been individual incidents by overzealous officials.

President Kenan Evren, leader of the former military government, defended the gov-

ernment's performance in a recent speech. He said opposition parties in Turkey always have used claims of torture to undermine the security policies of whichever government was in power.

But the charges have caused problems for Turkey and its relations with other countries, especially in the European Community and among fellow North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members. The European Community has frozen a \$600-million aid package to Turkey.

Torture claims reached a peak in 1982, following a low-and-order campaign by the military to crush leftist and rightist terrorist groups who had slain 5,000 people in two years prior to the military takeover. Martial law authorities imprisoned 30,000 suspected terrorists and their alleged accomplices.

Mr. Canver has compiled a list of 113 suspicious deaths with information received from lawyers, relatives and court sources and has submitted it to the Interior Ministry to investigate.

On the list, covering the past five years, are alleged killings in prisons, suicides, and deaths by hunger strike. Eighteen of the deaths Mr. Canver has listed as suspicious occurred after the return to civilian rule.

Jenco's friend offers money to kidnappers

BEIRUT (R) — A friend of kidnapped American Priest Lawrence Martin Jenco has offered his captors \$5,000 to help repair war damage in Lebanon, the Beirut daily An-Nahar reported Sunday.

"I want you to accept it as a little step in helping you rebuild your homeland. Your sons and mine are the true victims of any war," said an open letter to the kidnappers sent from Canada and published in part and anonymously in the paper.

Rev. Jenco, head of a U.S.-based Roman Catholic Relief Organisation in Beirut, should be freed "to enable him to continue his work. He has a lot to do," it said.

The kidnappers have threatened to kill Rev. Jenco and three other American hostages if Washington fails to press Kuwait to free 17 men imprisoned for bombings there in 1983. Eight other Western kidnap victims are also missing.

The newspaper said the letter's author identified himself as a friend of Rev. Jenco. The kidnappers were asked to contact the paper for the full text, it said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Al Hussein Mosque to be restored

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced Sunday it was carrying out restoration and maintenance work at Al Hussein Grand Mosque in downtown Amman. The cost of restoring the old mosque is expected to amount to JD 75,000. A committee charged with supervising the restoration of the mosque held a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Ahmad Al-Khatib, and reviewed the various phases of restoration work to be undertaken.

Jordan to attend meeting on Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a conference by Arab League on Palestinian refugees due to be held in Tunis on Jan. 13. An official statement here Sunday said that Jordan's delegation will be led by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Amman to be site for new federation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) on Sunday nominated Amman as the location for a proposed federation grouping Arab drug manufacturers and medical apparatus industries. The decision was taken at the end of a two-day seminar held to discuss the creation of the federation. The participants at the meeting also appointed a board of directors for the federation and elected a secretary general, to assume his post a year from now. In addition, the legal means of implementing the basic charter were discussed. The charter was drawn up by the CAEU general secretariat upon request from the executive council of the Arab Ministers of Health.

IAS delegation leaves Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the International Institute of Administrative Sciences left Amman Sunday at the end of a five-day visit. During the visit arrangements were made with the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences for holding an international conference on administrative sciences in Amman next September. The delegation also met with Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Ali Khreis, director of the Civil Service, and toured a number of Jordanian organisations and archaeological sites.

New measures regulates land around QAIA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has embarked on administrative and organisational measures related to lands surrounding the Queen Alia International Airport. Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Al-Tal announced Sunday.

He said that the new plan provides for the specific use of different types of land around the airport, including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and recreational purposes. Certain areas have been assigned for building industries as well, Mr. Tal added.

ATF to host Arab-American dialogue

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab politicians, intellectuals and think tank analysts will meet Tuesday with American political researchers to discuss U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and other related political issues at the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), which is co-sponsoring the symposium with the American Enterprise Institute (AEI).

Senior researcher and spokesman for the Arab Thought Forum, Fahed Faneek, said that participants at the symposium will be discussing "foreign relations as a political process" and the "return to inter-civilisational conflict, or a world order of interdependent civilisation."

Dr. Faneek said that such symposiums were instrumental in promoting mutual understanding among people. He said that think tanks in the United States make a considerable contribution to the country's political decision making.

Participating at the two-day symposium on the Arab side are Dr. Jawad Anani, Director General of Administrative Consultants; Dr. Badreya Al Awadi, Assistant Professor of International Law at the Kuwait University; Dr. Assad Abdel Rahman, Director General of the Shoman Foundation; Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman of Abu Ghazaleh International; Dr. Kamel Abn Jaber of the University of Jordan; Mr. Adnan Abu

Odeh, Minister of the Royal Court; Mr. Ahmad Baha' Eddin of Al Abram Centre for Strategic Studies in Cairo; Mr. Abdulla Bishara, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council; Dr. Adnan Bakhit, Dean of Scientific Research at the University of Jordan; Mr. Munji Al Fagheh, Consultant to the Arab League Secretary General; Dr. Fahed Faneek, Senior Researcher at the Arab Thought Forum; Mr. Ali Ghannour, Chairman of the Board and President of Alia the Royal Jordanian Airline; Dr. Abdel Aziz, former Prime Minister of Egypt; Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Arab Thought Forum; Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, President of the University of Jordan; Dr. Hazim Nus-cibah, Minister of State for Prime

Ministry Affairs; Dr. Suhli Otalibi, Director General of Jordan Centre for Studies and Information; Dr. Fahed Rashid, Kuwait Investment Authority; Dr. Mohammad Romaibi, Editor-in-Chief of "Al Arabi" magazine in Kuwait; Mrs. Laila Sharaf, former Minister of Information; Dr. Khalil Salem, Chairman and Director General of the Arab Finance Corporation.

Participating on the American side are Mr. Robert J. Pranger, Vice President for External Affairs and Director of International Programmes at AEI; Ms. Judith Kipper, AEI Resident Fellow; Mr. Harold Sanders, AEI Resident Fellow; Mr. Robert G. Gilpin, Professor of International Affairs at Princeton University; Mr. John Stremelan of the Rockefeller Foundation and Mr. Thomas Smerling, a Bush Foundation Fellow.

Also addressing the graduation ceremony was the Director of the Nursing College, who paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for offering due attention to promoting the nursing profession in Jordan.

Nowadays, more and more Jordanian girls are joining the profession and are being encouraged to do so by their families and parents, she said.

One of the graduates made a speech on the occasion before the graduates took the oath and received their diplomas from Dr. Hamzeh.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh congratulates a nursing school graduate during a ceremony Tuesday.

Queen Noor praises nursing as career of 'sacrifice and giving'

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor said Sunday that the nursing profession is one of the top priorities in Jordan's national endeavours as it is a sublime profession addressing itself to serving human kind.

In an address read out on her behalf by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh to a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of Jordanian nurses, Queen Noor said a civilised community cannot function without proper health care, which is essential for all citizens.

Addressing the graduates, the Queen said: "You are now leaving

your training institute to embark on a fruitful work to serve your people and community, and you must bear in mind that this is not an easy task to perform as it involves sitting up late and taking good care of human life, something that demands sacrifice and giving."

Those who have chosen this noble profession are bound to encounter many difficulties as they try to offer good service to others, but the community should find ways to facilitate the work of nurses, enabling them to devote their time and efforts to serving the society, the Queen added.

Also addressing the graduation ceremony was the Director of the Nursing College, who paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for offering due attention to promoting the nursing profession in Jordan.

Nowadays, more and more Jordanian girls are joining the profession and are being encouraged to do so by their families and parents, she said.

One of the graduates made a speech on the occasion before the graduates took the oath and received their diplomas from Dr. Hamzeh.

Citizens urged to file 1985 tax returns early

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department (ITD) collected JD 54.5 million in 1984 and hopes to collect JD 61 million for 1985, ITD Director General Salman Al Tarawneh announced Sunday.

Mr. Tarawneh said at a press conference that the 1984 collection was an increase of JD 6.2 million, nearly 13 per cent over the 1983 figures. Improvement in collection methods and public awareness both helped to achieve good results, Mr. Tarawneh added.

Mr. Tarawneh also announced that ITD teams have started distributing tax return forms to citizens and businesses around the country, allowing each taxpayer to conduct a self-assessment of their income before submitting the completed forms to ITD for settlement.

He urged all citizens to fill in the forms and settle their accounts with the department as soon as possible in order to benefit from incentives for early filing.

To encourage the citizens to pay taxes as early as possible, the ITD has offered a six per cent discount to those who file in January, four per cent for those who pay in February, and two per cent of payments made during March, Mr. Tarawneh pointed out.

He said those who cannot make the total payment now can arrange for paying by instalment until the end of April, and can still benefit from the ITD incentives.

Mr. Tarawneh noted that the income tax law imposes fines on those who delay paying taxes, at rates ranging from two per cent per month up to 24 per cent. The ITD has its own means of obtaining information and specific data about the income of all citizens but it prefers to allow taxpayer to make his own assessment to increase the confidence between the public and the department, Mr. Tarawneh added. He said, however, that the department never resorts to obtaining information from the Department of Statistics, which never reveals any details about citizens and their means of income.

Agricultural Ministry to plant trees on approaches to cities

SALT (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhan announced here Sunday that his ministry will plant fruit trees as well as forest trees this year at the approaches to main cities and along their main and side streets, and urged all citizens to protect the trees and provide them with care.

Mr. Dakhan made the announcement at a meeting here during which tree-planting cel-

ebrations for this season were discussed. This year's Arbor Day celebrations will last three months to allow for the greatest number of people to take part in planting trees.

The main celebration will be held at Al Mastaba near Jerash on Jan. 25 to coincide with the commencement of a project for developing the Zarqa River basin, the minister said.

Egyptian art exhibition offers revealing insight into roots of modern Arab art

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For those who have not yet seen the truly inspirational exhibition of Egyptian contemporary art at the Jordan National Gallery there is still time before it closes on January 10, after a run of almost two months. It is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed for this exhibition offers a rare chance — rare in that this is the first time these pieces have left Egypt — to see works of art by pioneering Egyptian artists that are without doubt some of the cornerstones on which all modern Arab art has been built.

Although influenced by the West, these artists, who started making their presence felt around the beginning of the century, managed to imbue their art with a very strong sense of their own culture, their own background and environment — in short with their own "Egyptianness," and it is this that makes the works of artists like Mahmoud Moukhtar, Ragheh Ayad, Youssef Kamel and Mahmoud Said so striking and so totally unique.

Epitomising these two qualities is the piece by Mahmoud Said, "Dance of the Nubians," which is the kind of painting that dominates all around it, it holds you rigid, keeps you looking and looking and looking. It depicts the smoky interior of a rather tumble-down shack lit by shafts of sunlight which have crept through the cracks in the rafters. Penetrating the gloom, they illuminate negro girls dancing with total abandon, arms outflung, hair flowing, beagles jangling, dark flesh, glowing alive. It is a strange, almost surreal painting, full of paradoxes. It is obviously hot — the quality of the sunlight has a fierceness that can only mean intense heat, yet the dancers, despite their energy and closeness, seem cool and remote in their blue dresses, intent only on themselves, the expressions on their beautiful faces with their exaggerated features isolating each from the other and the tawdry surroundings. It is also obviously daytime, yet through a small corner window in which a black cat sits — surely symbolic — sits, is a night sky.

Perhaps it is this strangeness, or perhaps the intellectualised eroticism that reminds one of the work of Balbus — even to the extent that one thinks that surely his "La Chaire" painted in 1952 — must have been inspired by Said's "Dance." In "La Chaire" a girl lying with arms outflung and hair falling behind her is lit by a shaft of light coming suddenly from a window whose curtain is being savagely drawn back by another girl. Watching the scene is an evil-looking cat. The parallels between the two paintings are almost too close not to have any connection, but it is something one will never be sure of.

Similar in many ways to Said's work is Ragheh Ayad's "Cafe d'Assouan," which again is a wonderfully painted depiction of real Egyptian life as it was in 1933. Immediately one gets the sense that this cafe is a rather seedy place, despite the whitewashed walls and small band of musicians. Perhaps this feeling stems from the shifty-looking characters in the foreground, or perhaps from the head seller at the rear of the shop, or maybe from the old coarse featured woman sitting hunched over her table, her broad, bearded and tattooed hands lightly holding the stem of her argalia. It is certainly this latter figure, however, that the artist wants us to see, for he has painted her in yellow — a bright spot in the dark surroundings.

Despite the subject matter of Ayad's painting, it is a very modern work. Extremely effective is the bold shading — one colour for each tone. There is no mixing, no blending, and is so cleverly done, that this is not immediately apparent.

There are three other excellent paintings that also catch the very essence of Egypt. There is Al Hosain Fawzy's realistically textured painting of a traditional house which manages to be so simple yet so striking. There are Inji Efflatoun's beautifully sinuous, extremely feminine women (this painting could only have been painted by a woman) crouching to reap the corn, their curves so desirable that they make you want to draw, and finally Youssef Kamel's overloaded donkeys. Although this painting is almost totally abstract, the feeling of burden and the outstretched legs and lowered heads is intense, yet the whole piece is uplifted by a marvellous combination of colour. It is, however, the sculptural

work of Mahmoud Moukhtar, considered by many to be the father of modern art in Egypt, that perhaps embodies the spirit of his country more than any other piece at the show. One of Moukhtar's more potent ways of conveying this feeling was via his portrayal of the peasant woman, two of which are on display here. The clean pure lines, the smooth plains and curves impart such grace and beauty to the figure, such strength and serenity that one is genuinely moved by them, despite their small size.

Another very compelling sculpture is the piece by Abdel Bader Abdel Hai. A fat black, oh-so-sleek, elongated cat sits upon a serpent — the symbolism is clear, the work superb.

Not so heavily imbued with the sense of their past and culture are another group of paintings, some of which are equally stimulating, particularly the piece by Marguerite Nakhlia. Born in Alexandria in 1908, Nakhlia studied art in France and it is the stock exchange in Paris that has inspired the painting in this collection. In the foreground — highly reminiscent of the work of Fahrenissia Zeid and probably influenced by her — is a sinuous network of outspread arms as the men frantically reach out to place their bets. In the background — highly reminiscent of the work of Fahrenissia Zeid and probably influenced by her — is a sinuous network of outspread arms as the men frantically reach out to place their bets. In the background — highly reminiscent of the work of Fahrenissia Zeid and probably influenced by her — is a sinuous network of outspread arms as the men frantically reach out to place their bets.

If there is a feel of Fahrenissia Zeid in Nakhlia's work, there is a touch of L.S. Lowry in the work of Seif Wanli. But here the bright cleanliness of the white walls of the houses tells you that this is not England and the lovely floating shapes of the roofs are Wanli's own.

Finally, there is some excellent portrait work by Hussein A. Bikan, Sabri Ragheh and Ahmed Sabri, whose impressionistic recollection of "Le Romancier, T. El Hakim" is exceptional. Also there are some interesting abstracts, particularly that by Ahmed Fouad Selim.

In the five days remaining before the close of this magnificent exhibit, you owe it to yourself to visit the Jordan National Gallery.

Arab League rallies behind Libya against threats

(Continued from page 1)

In a report from Washington, Pravda said "recent" pronouncements by Libya denying responsibility for the attacks had been totally ignored by the U.S.

Citing U.S. press reports, Pravda said the Pentagon and the CIA were preparing for armed intervention in Libya, including plans to bomb the country.

The newspaper condemned the airport attacks and said terrorism should not be tolerated anywhere in the world. "However, neither in the United States nor in Israel do they have any right to adopt the role of judges in this problem," it said.

Meanwhile, the United States kept a close watch on developments in Libya but there were no signs that President Reagan had reached a decision on possible military or economic retaliation against Tripoli.

The Reagan administration declined to comment on whether or how it might respond to Libya. The United States has sent the Coral Sea aircraft carrier steaming towards Libya and placed two warships on alert, ready to make the 10-day voyage to the Mediterranean on 72 hours notice in the event Mr. Reagan orders a military strike.

An administration spokesman said there had been no "formal meetings" at the White House on Saturday but that Mr. Reagan was being "kept up to date" on developments.

Secretary of State George Shultz, and other administration officials, spent Saturday at their desks to monitor developments in the area but there were no indications that Mr. Reagan had reached any decision on the U.S. response.

A senior Israeli official said Israel does not intend to strike against Libya in retaliation for the attacks in Rome and Vienna. If the United States believed an attack on Libya was warranted, it should not expect Israel to do the job for it, the official, who, according to Reuters, reflects the views of hardline Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said.

Guerrilla attacks are the problem of many countries and Israel will not act as world policeman, said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified. His comments followed speculation that Israel might be preparing an attack on Libya similar to its Oct. 1 air raid on PLO headquarters near Tunis.

In Cairo, Egyptian Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said Egypt had no plans for military action against Libya over last week's attacks.

"We have no intention of any military action against Libya or any of our neighbours," Field Marshal Abu Ghazala told reporters after talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Asked whether Egypt would join the United States in military action against Tripoli, the minister said he had no information to indicate the U.S. intended to attack Libya.

"I cannot answer that question, which is hypothetical, unless you can confirm to me that they (the U.S.) will attack Libya. Then I can answer."

Libyan Radio said Sunday that Libya's people's congresses have decided to form suicide squads to confront "American imperialism."

The radio said the country's basic people's congresses have been holding emergency meetings "to discuss the American-Zionist threats against the Libyan people."

It said: "During the meetings, the people's congresses decided to become fighting units and suicide squads to give American imperialism and the Zionist entity sleepless nights and to confront their interests everywhere."

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad assured Col Qadhafi of Syria's support in confronting "imperialist-Zionist" threats, JANA, said on Sunday.

Mr. Assad made a telephone call to Col. Qadhafi on Saturday in which the Syrian leader told the Libyan colonel that "the material and moral resources of Syria would be put under the disposal of the Libyan Arab people in confronting the imperialist-Zionist threats," JANA said.

Israel Radio has reported that Libya was on a state of high alert. The radio quoted its monitor Mickey Gurdus, who often is among the first to learn of news developments by listening in on radio conversations around the Middle East.

The reports said Libyan air force pilots were ready to take off at any time and anti-aircraft emplacements were being manned. It gave no further details.

Israeli intelligence sources believe Libyan and Syrian agents carried out the Rome and Vienna attacks, a London newspaper reported on Sunday.

The Sunday Times of London said agents of the two Arab nations allegedly behind the attacks used the name of Abn Nidal "merely as a cover."

The newspaper quoted anonymous Israeli intelligence sources as saying Abu Nidal could not have carried out the twin attacks because he is ill with liver cancer and incapable of masterminding such a complex operation.

According to the Sunday Times sources, Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, has been treated for cancer in an East German hospital and now is living in retirement in either Tripoli, or Damascus.

The newspaper noted that the Italian government has expressed doubts that Abu Nidal's group was responsible for the attacks.

The report said the Israelis claim that the weapons used in the two attacks were delivered in the diplomatic bags of either the Libyan or Syrian embassies in Rome and Vienna and that agents working from those embassies helped the eight gunmen by providing intelligence and planning for the operations.

Other attacks were planned, but not carried out, in Paris, Brussels, Belgium, and Madrid, Spain, the Sunday Times said.

Mr. Turelki reiterated on Sunday Libya's denial of any involvement in the airport attacks.

In a radio interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Turelki said, "I think we have said clearly that Libya had nothing to do with it. We denied it."



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Gulf conflict ought to be addressed first

AN ARAB League Council meeting that was held in Tunis over the weekend addressed itself to dealing with the spread of Zionist influence in the black continent. The meeting heard Mr. Chadli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, make a fervent appeal to all Arab states to take concerted moves and counter Israel's increasing presence in African states where its influence is adversely affecting the Arab Nation's interests. Today, foreign ministers from countries forming the Organisation of Islamic Conference are also expected to tackle Israel's aggressive policies against Islamic nations, but are more likely to devote most of their time to discussing the conflicts in the Gulf and Afghanistan and Israeli measures against Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. In a statement on the eve of the Fez parley OIC Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh expressed optimism over the meeting and urged Arab and Islamic nations to intensify their efforts for the sake of reaping fruitful results.

While we certainly share Mr. Klibi's deep concern over the re-emergence of Israel's presence in Africa and its spread in Asia and plans to establish diplomatic relations with Spain, we also would like to share Mr. Pirzadeh's optimistic views about the outcome of the Fez meeting.

Unfortunately though there are persisting indications about Israel's continued successes in Africa. These have come about not only through Israel's collaboration with the racist regime in Pretoria and U.S. support for the Jewish state, but also largely due to dwindling Arab financial assistance to poor African countries and persisting disputes and differences among Arab and Islamic nations costing them their credibility and rendering them weak and incapable of defending their rights and protecting their own interests.

It is a universal concept that Arab and Islamic nations hold almost identical views and have nearly the same interests and objectives. But it is rather difficult to interpret their failure to date in embarking on meaningful and concerted action to protect their own rights and interests. The meeting in Fez ought first to pave the way for patching up differences among Arab and Islamic nations and end the Gulf conflict which is distracting attention from the focal issue of Palestine before contemplating measures to deal with Israel's success in Africa and other parts of the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Gulf war is the priority

FOREIGN MINISTERS from Islamic nations open a meeting in Fez on Monday to discuss the Iraq-Iran war among other sensitive issues that have been plaguing Arab and Islamic nations. The ministers no doubt realise the dangers threatening their countries because of the continuation of such conflicts and in view of the current plots hatched by Israel and its allies against their nation. Therefore it is only logical for these ministers to handle the Gulf conflict and other important issues which have a direct economic, political and social bearing on the Islamic people everywhere.

Needless to say the emergence of such will and the adoption of a number of constructive steps by the Arab ministers and their countries will have a beneficial effect on adjusting the strategic balance in our region and will be of help to the Arabs and their just cause. Ending the Gulf war is a priority among the subjects on the ministers' agenda because once the war is over all efforts would be directed towards dealing with the Israeli influence which has now spread in Africa and Asia.

Al Dustour: Israel stirs trouble in Lebanon

THE LEBANESE government found no other alternative but to resort to the United Nations Security Council and complain about Israel's recurrent attacks in southern Lebanon over the past few weeks. Israel's escalation of tension in the southern parts of Lebanon and its acts of aggression, sometimes committed through Israeli-backed militias around Sidon and other regions, can be interpreted as a means for providing protection to Zionist settlers in the northern occupied Palestine.

Israel has of late been talking about enlarging what it calls a "security zone" in southern Lebanon in order to achieve that goal. It is true that the resistance activity against Israeli presence in the occupied territories have been increasing lately, but Israel's actions at this particular time stems from its evil desire to wreck attempts for national reconciliation among various groups in Lebanon.

A troubled Lebanon offers a golden chance for the Israelis to maintain their presence in the country, but a united Lebanon is bound to confront Zionist ambitions and end Israel's dreams.

Sawt Al Shaab: Just money is not enough

THE MILLIONS of dollars spent by the Arabs in Africa to stem the spread of Zionist influence in the black continent have obviously failed to achieve any result. Money alone cannot create allies or friends, but a wise policy, backed by funds and investments, can surely achieve that goal.

The Arabs should regard Africa as their natural supporter and their strategic depth and therefore, should re-examine their dealings with its nations if they truly desire to confront Zionist challenges. Following its 1973 exodus from Africa Israel embarked on the task of benefiting from past mistakes and lessons and finally succeeded in finding its way back to a number of African countries. Israel was helped in its endeavours by Arab failures to honour their commitments to African countries and by its own planning and the need by certain African nations of economic help, investments and technical assistance which could not be acquired from the Arabs. Israel, also benefited from the U.S. role in Africa and the negative impact which the Camp David accord left on the black continent. Now the

U.S. media care little for what happens in Lebanon

By Shafiq Al Hout

NEW YORK — Lebanon's bloody and tragic events that preceded the signing of the Damascus agreement were largely ignored by the American media. Several weeks ago, the so-called "war of flag" broke out in Lebanon, claiming the lives of tens and wounding hundreds of civilians. Despite the gravity of the situation, no single news item on what was going on in Lebanon was heard on the U.S. television or other media. Lebanese and Arabs living in New York were eager to know what was happening in Beirut. The only news about this fighting was heard through marginal comments on the ferocity and brutality of the Lebanese people who were killing each other for no sage reason. Some of the comments heard on the sidelines of fighting were Lebanese are killing their Lebanese brethren; let them practise their hobbies until they are bored of such meaningless and useless violence.

Had it not been for the British envoy Terry Waite, who happened to be there during the flag war, mediating with the kidnappers of American hostages and others to free their hostages, no Arab or Lebanese citizen here would have known about this new kind of fighting. One of the journalists accompanying the British archbishop's envoy said they were

very pleased when they heard from him that they were leaving Beirut to the United States in a few hours, despite the fact that such events attract the attention of the media. The journalists asked: But are the events important to the extent that they attract the media's attention? That was before, the archbishop's envoy said. Indeed, it is a tragedy that Lebanon's events were no longer of interest to the American media; but what is more tragic is that the

Lebanese are puzzled against what is happening in their country, they are so puzzled that they cannot even organise a rally or a seminar during which they can elucidate their cause. They do not even have the interest to do so. A Lebanese immigrant has asked me: "What subjects are we to explain and to whom? Sixty years ago we were talking about the Ottomans' tyranny and their persecution of Arabs, then there was talk about the Palestinians and the threats

they pose to Lebanon. Later on we talked about Israel and the Israelis, but nowadays we cannot put blame on anybody else or on all. It is no longer a secret who killed whom? Even if we were to not know why?"

However, he added, "we still hear calls from Lebanese leaders, for unity and conciliation". He noted: "Silence is gold. Let's keep our dirty linen hung on our ropes".

Some time ago, I met with a

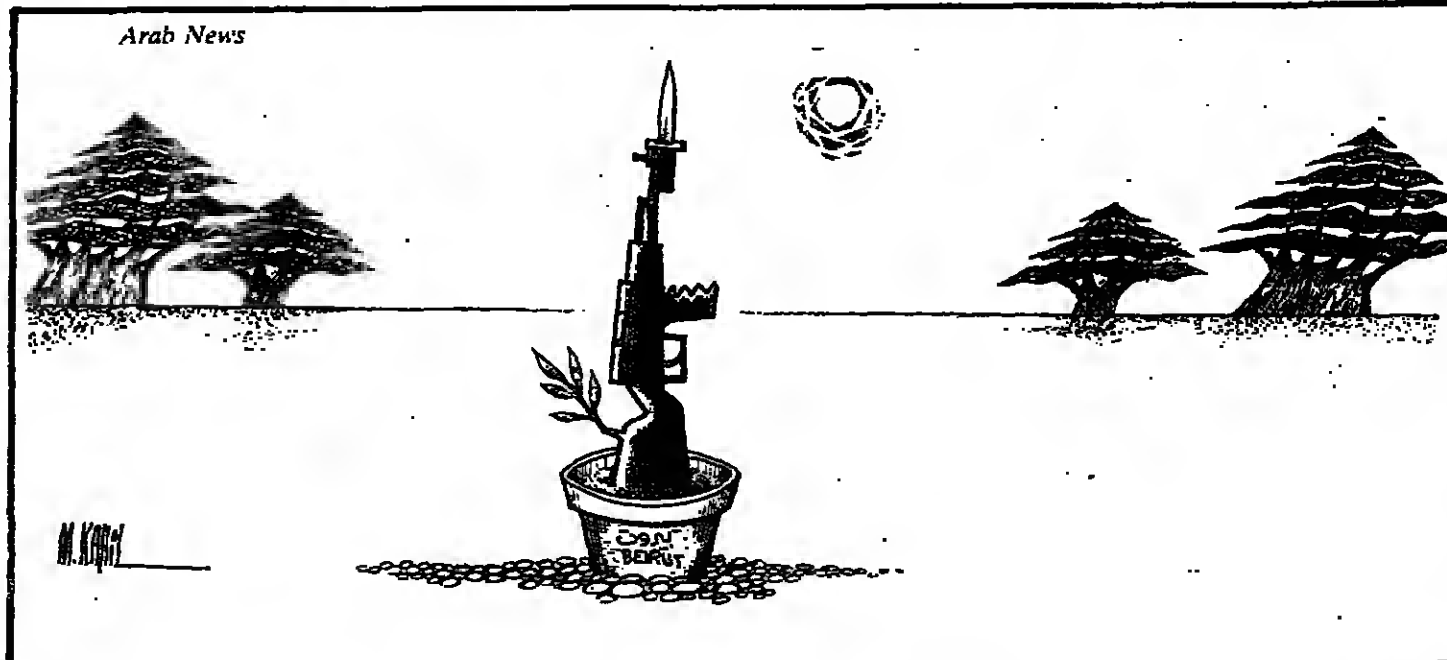
Lebanese official working at the Lebanese embassy and conveyed to him some of the complaints of the Palestinians living in the U.S. about the renewal of their Lebanese travel documents. He moaned, saying that some Lebanese themselves and even his relatives suffer from the same problem. Hearing this, I could only pray to God that Lebanon restore its health and overcome its ordeal.

Thereafter I went to the United Nations headquarters to see glo-

sely what draft resolutions Arab ambassadors had prepared for the 1985 session, on the Palestine and Middle East questions after week-long deliberations among these ambassadors who failed to reach on an agreement. Their differences are marginal. Some were in favour of referring to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord while others were against it and called for condemning it or even ignoring it. Similarly some blessed the Casablanca summit while others refused to. Some ambassadors accused others of practising intellectual terrorism, while others accused them of trying to impose hegemony over.

How poor these ambassadors really were! They have to stick to their capitals' positions. They are not in a position to change even a single letter from the text of the text they have received from their respective capitals. They tried hard to find an acceptable formula, without touching upon the stand of this capital or that. In fact they were embarking on an uneasy, if not impossible job. The ambassadors' sufferings cannot be alleviated except through an Arab summit, which should put the interest of the Arabs on top of all other interests.

The writer is a senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He wrote the above article while in New York in December.



Marcos sees himself as Philippines' only hope

By Graham Lovell

Reuter

MANILA — President Ferdinand Marcos, who marked 20 years in power on Monday, apparently believes that only he can save the Philippines from becoming another Vietnam, Kampuchea or Nicaragua.

But his hold on office is in danger. With a presidential election a few weeks down the road the opposition seems unexpectedly united, its campaign surprisingly vigorous.

Marcos called the election almost 18 months before his present six-year term expires. He wants a fresh mandate for his economic recovery programme and his campaign against a worsening rebellion.

The country has been in economic disarray for three years, especially since the August 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, whose 32-year-old widow Corason is challenging Marcos in the February 7 election.

Defeat for Marcos could be seen as an implicit public indictment of 26 people, among them armed forces chief Fabian Ver, cleared of charges that they were involved in a military conspiracy to kill Aquino.

"Cory" Aquino swept onto the presidential ticket on a wave of popular emotion despite her own apparent reluctance and admitted political inexperience.

Marcos, who is 68, says he is "ashamed to run against a lady. It's degrading, very demeaning."

Thousands of people have turned out at the campaign rallies of "Cory" and her running mate, former Senator Salvador "Doy" Laurel. 57. Marcos has done little campaigning and there is little sign of action from his political machine.



Ferdinand Marcos



Corason Aquino

Some political analysts believe Marcos and his 75-year-old vice-presidential candidate, former Senator Arturo Toletoino, may not be fit to match the punishing campaign schedule that Aquino and Laurel have set themselves.

But Marcos brushed aside charges that he was unfit for another term because of failing health, telling an election rally: "They have been saying this since 1983. They said I am a cripple and cannot even walk straight... I am a champion and will act like a champion."

Marcos blames much of his country's difficulties on problems caused by world recession, a slump in demand and prices for Philippine products and a loss of confidence caused by adverse publicity after Aquino's murder.

His foes accuse him, his family and their businessmen friends, or "cronies," of plundering the country, of looting state corporations, of squandering money on showpiece enterprises, and of shattering away fortunes overseas.

Marcos has promised that if re-elected he will revitalise the country after generations of ine-

and foreign creditor banks.

But against the long-term benefits that these might bring to 54 million Filipinos, there are immediate problems of sluggish, even negative growth, unemployment and social decay in cities and a contracting market for work overseas, an important source of foreign exchange.

An estimated \$5,000 to 18,000 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas are waging the only growing insurgency termed as "communist" in South-East Asia.

The army believes the NPA may be moving into the cities, including Manila. They say it is using the southern city of Davao as a laboratory to test urban guerrilla tactics.

Washington has warned Marcos that economic support might be jeopardised unless significant steps are taken in domestic reforms.

Under pressure from the United States, which has two large bases and a huge financial stake in the Philippines, the Marcos government promised to reform the armed forces to make it better able to defeat the insurgency.

But there is little evidence that the most urgent tasks have been fully addressed, including a major overhaul of the command structure and the retirement of several generals past normal pensionable age, many of them related by marriage or blood to Marcos and his family.

Congressional and popular domestic pressure appears to have ensured that independent observers will be allowed to keep an eye on voting and vote-counting. This offers some assurance that the election might be more honest than in the past, when irregularities and mayhem by both sides have been the rule.

On the plus side, the country appears to be pulling out of its most immediate financial difficulties, which include a \$26 billion foreign debt and virtual economic stagnation.

Inflation is under control and down to single digits, compared with more than 60 per cent at the end of 1983. The country has largely arranged fresh financing from the international monetary fund

Official-turned-lobbyists come under fierce criticism in Washington circles

By Joan Mower

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michael K. Deaver left his post as President Ronald Reagan's deputy chief of staff last May but still maintains his decades-old friendship with the president.

He also has picked up some new business along the way, representing interests in Washington of the Canadian government, a Korean trading company and a Panama-based sugar group.

It is just that type of relationship that has drawn the ire of congressional critics, who say that former officials such as Deaver are capitalising on their governmental connections for financial gain.

In essence, former high-level public servants are cashing in on knowledge and expertise obtained at taxpayer expense, said opposition Democratic Representative Mary Kaptur.

Sometimes, Kaptur said, the lobbyists' work may be at odds with the best interests of U.S. policy.

That argument is "ludicrous," said Stanton Anderson, a former deputy assistant secretary of state between 1973-75 who represents Haiti, Japan and Brazil. "American policymakers aren't going to change policy because someone calls them."

Justice Department figures tabulated by U.S. News and World Report magazine show that in 1984, U.S. lobbyists were paid

\$14.2 million by Japan, \$7.5 million by Canada; \$6.3 million by West Germany; \$5.4 million each by the Soviet Union and Ireland.

Michael K. Deaver and Associates receives an annual fee of \$105,000 from the government of Canada, which wants the United States to crack down on the utilities believed to be the source of acid rain.

Deaver also lists a Korean trading company and a Panama-based sugar group among his clients.

Although Deaver is still close to the Reagans, he told the Washington Post he sees no conflict with his new job.

"The Reagans are friends of mine, I talk to them about other things all the time," he said. As for his clients, John Fiedelhouse, a spokesman for the Canadian embassy, said his government is pleased with Deaver's advice on acid rain questions.

Deaver is not the only former Reagan administration official to turn to lobbying, the term used to describe efforts to influence government policy on behalf of a special interest group.

The firm of Black, Manafort, Stone and Stone is paid \$600,000 from Jonas Savimbi's rebel group in Angola. As part of his work for Savimbi, Christopher Lehman, a former National Security Council staffer and the brother of Navy Secretary John Lehman, attends congressional hearings and contacts people in the administration han-

dling Africa. Lehman's goal is to get money for Unita, Savimbi's guerrilla group battling Angola's Pro-Soviet government.

The Socialist government in the Seychelles has retained Pete Teeley, Vice-President George Bush's former spokesman, and his partner for \$6,000 a month.

Teeley said he serves as the liaison man between the Seychelles government and the State Department.

"They have no ambassador here so I maintain regular contact with U.S. officials," he said. The Seychelles is an island nation in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa.

Others once affiliated with the administration and now employed by foreigners include: Richard V. Allen, former national security adviser; Sheila Tate, Nancy Reagan's former press secretary; Langhorne Motley, former assistant secretary of state, and Les Janka, former White House deputy press secretary.

Motley described his duties for the Brazilian Shoe Manufacturers Trade Association as analysing and defining "the political climate and economic atmosphere" in the United States on shoe imports.

Last Dec. 17, Reagan vetoed a bill that would have restricted U.S. imports of non-rubber footwear to 60 per cent of the U.S. market for eight years.

Republicans are not the only former government officials handling accounts for foreigners.

Some big-name Democrats with clients abroad are former CIA Director William Colby, former arms control negotiator Paul Warnke and John West, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The Justice Department requires foreign agents to file, but agency officials acknowledge the 850 registered agents do not reflect their true numbers.

Joseph Clarkson, head of the Foreign Agents' Office, says there are perhaps 30 per cent to 60 per cent more unregistered agents than registered agents. His agency rarely prosecutes violators, however, because of it doesn't have the staff to pursue investigations.

There also are a variety of government ethics laws on the subject, including one stipulating that former senior government employees must not contact ex-colleagues.

Democratic Representative Howard Wolpe has introduced legislation that would bar top-level officials from representing or advising a foreign concern for at least 10 years after leaving government service.

"What has happened is that the American government has become a finishing school for highly paid lobbyists for foreign interests," said Wolpe, chairman of the House of Representatives Africa Sub-committee.

"The question really is whether some of these foreign countries are getting their money's worth. They're buying the name."

Afghanistan's 'open-door' universities worry Pakistan

By Tom Heneghan

Reuter

TORKHAM, Pakistan — Mohammad Tahir was angry at being arrested only a few yards from Afghanistan and frustrated by all the fuss Pakistani frontier officials were making over him.

"I just want to study medicine," the 20-year-old protested when asked why he was illegally enrolled in the university at Jalalabad, only 40 miles beyond the dusty border post here. "I don't want to go to Moscow," he said several times.

But the armed militiamen who hauled him off the daily Peshawar-to-Jalalabad bus clearly did not believe it. They sent him back to Peshawar for interrogation.

The government here is getting increasingly worried by young Pakistanis like Tahir who are taking up offers of a free university education in Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

It sees the project as a long-term plan to spread Communist ideas among its youth. "They're taking students who couldn't get into our medical schools and giving them degrees that we won't recognise," said an interior ministry official in Islamabad.

"Why should they take our third-raters?" he asked. "It's for brainwashing, not for education."

Afghanistan began offering free tuition, room and board more than two years ago, the official said, but the programme is only now reaching a size that has the government fretting.

The governor of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Lieutenant-General Fazle Haq, announced last September that illegal graduates from Communist universities would be barred from government jobs in the province.

The federal government has not yet taken such a step, but Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan has accused Moscow of using grants and free housing to lure Pakistani students there.

Pakistan has cultural exchange programmes providing a few official scholarships to Communist countries. The Soviet embassy in Islamabad says the government does not use most of them.

But a growing number of students have been slipping across the border without permission to study in Jalalabad, a favourite place for NWFP students because instruction is in their native Pashtu. Some go on to Kabul, where classes are in Persian, and a few continue to Moscow, Soviet Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

According to Riaz Khan, who unlike Tahir has eluded arrest for over two years of travelling between Jalalabad and his home in Peshawar, students seeking admission to Jalalabad must belong to the left-wing National Democratic Party (NDP).

But their real interest is professional, not political. "If I could get admitted here, I would be back tomorrow," the 24-year-old told Reuters in Peshawar.

Officials at the NWFP home and tribal affairs ministry said they knew of only 164 students in the Jalalabad medical school, but Riaz said the real number was far higher. He said about 400 Pakistanis were studying at Jalalabad medical faculty, compared to only 200 Afghans, and about 40 more were in engineering.

"The Afghans all belong to the Communist Party. About 50 of them work for Khatkhat (the Afghan secret police)," he estimated. "Then, laughing, he added: 'Five per cent of the Pakistanis work for Khatkhat and another 30 per cent for Pakistani intelligence.'"

But Riaz's smile disappeared when he was asked about Zulfikar, another Peshawar student at Jalalabad arrested last year for spying and made to confess at a press conference in Kabul. "I didn't know him," he spluttered.

The war between U.S.-backed Muslim rebels and Soviet-Afghan forces, who have a large base at Jalalabad, is also never far away.

"Every day we see helicopter gunships firing away at the hills where they know the Mujahideen (Islamic warriors) are hiding," Riaz said. Rebels sometimes stop the Peshawar-Jalalabad bus, searching for Pakistanis, going to the Soviet Union.

"If they find one who is going to Moscow, they kill him."

About 300 Pakistanis are now enrolled at Kabul University, Riaz said, but officials there seem to be limiting admissions to keep it from becoming an overcrowded with Pakistanis at Jalalabad.

Once in Kabul, the students are monitored by exiled Pakistani leftist Ajmal Khattak, who selects the brighter ones for sending on to Moscow and Eastern Europe, he added.

According to the conservative Karachi weekly Takbeer, over 500 have been sent through Kabul on Afghan passports this year. Some 335 were sent to the Soviet Union and a few dozen to Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, India and Poland.

It said 290 students have returned to Pakistan this year after 18 months of training in subversion and sabotage, though the interior ministry would neither confirm nor deny the claim.

Both Tahir and Riaz said there were no Soviet instructors in Jalalabad and medical students did not have to take Russian language courses or learn Marxist-Leninist philosophy. Those going to the Soviet Union have to take a year of Russian lessons in Kabul, where Soviet presence is more marked, or Moscow.

Many are paid off by sending in Russian, but there are, compensations. "In Jalalabad and in Kabul, the girls are Muslims," he said. "It is easy to get a girl."

Asked why they were taking such risks for a degree they know the government would not recognise, Tahir simply shrugged and refused to answer in front of his guards.

Riaz, talking with friends in a Peshawar video shop, was more open. "When I come back, my General Zia will be gone," he said, referring to President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq. "He hates this."

U.S. nuclear plant blast kills 1, injures over 100 workers

GORE, Oklahoma (R) — An explosion at a nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma killed one person, injured at least 100 and sent a cloud of low-level radioactive gas into the surrounding countryside, local authorities reported Sunday.

The Kerr-McGee Company, which operates the plant, said Saturday's accident occurred when a blast ruptured a 14-ton manufacturing tank.

A nursing supervisor at Sparks Regional Medical Centre in nearby Fort Smith, Arkansas, said the one fatality, James Harrison, 25, died from inhaling a toxic chemical and also suffered facial burns.

State police shut a nine-mile stretch (13.5 kilometres) of a cross country highway for fear of toxic radioactive contamination, but later reopened it to traffic. The cause of the explosion is not yet known.

The dead man was among nine members of the 25-strong work force taken to local hospitals after the blast.

By early Sunday, however, Gore's Sequoyah Memorial Hospital reported that a total of 101 workers and area residents had turned up complaining of skin and eye irritation from a toxic gas that seeped into the atmosphere.

Dr. Michael Herndon issued a statement saying the patients were treated for apparent exposure to hydrochloric acid gas.

Charles Wade, a hospital administrator, said 29 people were admitted for observation, and were in good condition. He said

many of those seeking treatment had driven through the sparsely populated area at the time of the blast.

A nursing supervisor at Sparks Hospital in nearby Fort Smith, Arkansas, said the dead man, James Harrison, 25, died from inhaling the toxic chemical and also suffered facial burns. She said four other workers were in good condition.

The Kerr-McGee spokeswoman, Donna McFarland, said company officials sounded an alert shortly after the blast at the Sequoyah Plant and state police shut down the stretch of Interstate 40 for 90 minutes as a precaution.

Ms. McFarland said the gas, which is used in the separation of uranium used in nuclear power plants and weapons, produces low-level radioactive mist when exposed to the atmosphere. She said the mist that escaped

appeared to have settled within the immediate confines of the plant, which is situated on a 1,200-acre near the Arkansas border.

The surrounding area is sparsely populated, but Ms. McFarland said a handful of families living in the general area were asked to go to the hospital for testing.

A team from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was en route to the scene to investigate the accident, she said.

Kerr-McGee was engulfed in controversy in the 1970s when Karen Silkwood, a worker at one of its plants in Oklahoma City, died in a mysterious car crash. She had suffered from plutonium poisoning and had been involved in a union campaign for improved safety. Her life was the subject of the film *Silkwood*.

Poll shows more support for Reagan

NEW YORK (R) — President Reagan now has his greatest support ever among American blacks and enjoys an overall positive rating from 68 per cent of all Americans, according to a New York Times poll published Sunday.

The poll showed that 56 per cent of blacks approved of how Mr. Reagan was handling his job,

a jump of 18 per cent over those voicing support in a November survey.

Approval from blacks, which early in Mr. Reagan's first term was measured below 10 per cent, has increased steadily in 1985, the newspaper said.

Mr. Reagan's popularity among women was also on the rise, the

poll said. It said 67 per cent of women backed Mr. Reagan against 60 per cent in the last poll.

The telephone survey of 1,358 adults was conducted between Dec. 14 and Dec. 18 and was subject to a sampling error of plus or minus three points overall and among women, and plus or minus nine points in the findings among blacks, the newspaper said.

Extremists kill 1, injure 2 in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — A head constable was wounded by suspected Sikh extremists in the Gurdaspur district of Punjab bordering Pakistan, hours after the killing of a schoolteacher, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Sunday.

The news agency said suspected extremists Saturday gunned down the schoolteacher and wounded a woman in a village in Gurdaspur district.

Gunmen struck again hours later, wounding head constable Mukhtiar Singh while he was riding a motorcycle and escaping with his revolver, the news agency added.

The attack was the fifth in four days and the latest in a wave of violence blamed on extremists fighting for a separate Sikh nation

in Punjab state. More than 50 people have died in the violence since October.

The pro-government National Herald newspaper said security was stepped up in northern India after intelligence agencies warned against a possible attempt by a "terrorist" group to disrupt Republic Day celebrations on Jan. 26.

The celebrations include a military parade in New Delhi to be attended by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

PTI said police arrived in Bhalwari town in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh state to interrogate four Sikhs suspected of operating a subversive network in northern India.

It quoted a police spokesman as saying the suspects had paid secret

visits to Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi and Kathmandu to organise their network.

Two of the suspects, identified by PTI as Naginder Singh and Gurdeep Singh, were Canadian citizens.

The police spokesman said the four suspects appeared to have been trained in commando and guerrilla warfare and were set to leave for Hong Kong after "fulfilling their assignments" in India and Nepal. PTI gave no further details.

A Canadian High Commission spokeswoman said they were looking into the report.

Punjab Governor Shankar Dayal Sharma said Sunday he was confident extremism in the state could be eradicated.

Fuel line broken on plane which crashed in Texas

DE KALB, Texas (AP) — Investigators found a broken gasoline-heater fuel line in the wreckage of a plane that crashed New Year's Eve, killing singer Rick Nelson and six others, federal officials said.

But it is not known whether the fuel line fractured before or after the crash and the cause of the accident remains unknown. National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Jim Burnett said.

The head of a private air transportation safety group, however, blames the 26-year-old heater for causing the fire, which led to the crash.

Wayne Williams, president of the National Transportation Safety Association based in Dania, Florida, said elimination of gasoline heaters on aircraft was one of several safety steps recommended by the Airline Pilot's Association more than 30 years ago.

Such heaters are used on many DC-9s, like the plane carrying Nelson, Williams said.

At a news conference in nearby Texarkana, Arkansas, Mr. Burnett said federal regulations req-

uire inspections of such heaters every 500 hours of flying time. Investigators have been unable to find maintenance records confirming the inspections, he said.

Investigators confirmed that Nelson had bought the plane on May 2.

He and his band were on their way from Guntersville, Alabama, to Dallas, where they were scheduled to perform in a New Year's Eve concert when the plane crashed at De Kalb, Texas, near the Texas-Oklahoma-Arkansas border.

Pilot Brad Rank and co-pilot Kenneth Ferguson survived, but they have been unable to answer questions so far.

Rank, who was in good condition Saturday at St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana, and Ferguson, who was in fair and improving condition in the University of Arkansas Medical Centre at Little Rock. Both suffered second — and third-degree burns and smoke inhalation.

Memorial services for Nelson will be held Monday in Los Angeles, said Nelson's publicist, Oscar Arslanian.

Rajneesh plans to live in Himalayas

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the controversial Indian guru deported from the United States, said Sunday he plans to settle in a small residence — not a commune — in the Himalayan mountains in India or Nepal.

"If the (Nepalese) King is happy for me to have a hut in Nepal, I'm absolutely willing," he told his Nepalese disciples.

Rajneesh, said Swami Anand Arun, coordinator of the Rajneesh Meditation Centre in the Katmandu Valley, offered earlier to provide him with a "poor man's hut" for living quarters, instead of a hotel.

"I will love to be in a hut," he said. "It will be a palace for me ... just I will be worried only the King may become jealous of me."

At the invitation of his Nepalese followers, Rajneesh flew in Friday from New Delhi, where he told reporters he had no plans to settle in Nepal and would return to India to inspect possible sites for a permanent commune.

Rajneesh left India in 1981 after running into tax trouble and established a commune in Oregon in the U.S. north west. He returned to India in November after pleading guilty to U.S. federal immigration fraud charges and being deported.

Rajneesh denied Sunday that he had been hounded from the United States, saying, "nobody is hounding me. I'm hounding thousands of people. In America, I was hounding America. They made a case against me and their case was the U.S. government against Bhagwan Sri Rajneesh."

"Who is hounding whom? A single individual against the greatest government and the biggest power in the whole world, in the whole history," he said.

He said U.S. authorities "were so worried and concerned that they have forced me to leave America for five years. I told them, 'why five years? Why not make it this whole life?' Because I have the whole world and I may not come back to America in this life again."

Asked whether he would consider living in Australia or Sweden, Rajneesh said: "I belong to the whole world and the whole world belongs to me and I don't believe in the national boundaries. I was in Poona. I was in Oregon. I'm here in Katmandu. But it is the same earth."

Pakistani opposition holds rally

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's largest opposition party Sunday staged the first open political rally in the country since eight and a half years of martial law ended last week.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) held a series of low-key meetings across the country to mark the 58th anniversary of the birth of its founder, executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Participants reported that few or no police were seen monitoring the officially unauthorised rallies.

President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who ousted Mr. Bhutto in 1977 and later approved his hanging on murder conspiracy charges, formally handed power to the non-party parliament last Monday.

But political parties, banned in 1979 shortly after Mr. Bhutto's execution, must first obtain government approval before they can officially resume public work.

About 1,000 students clapped, danced and shouted "long live Bhutto" at Karachi University before cutting of a 58-lb birthday cake in front of a garlanded portrait of Bhutto.

They then broke into choruses of "roti, kapra, makan (bread, clothes, houses), the populist slogan of Bhutto who ruled Pakistan from 1971 until the July 1977 coup.

Addressing the students, Karachi PPP leader Nahi Dad Khan called on Gen. Zia to resign as chief of army staff, a post he kept in addition to the presidency.

Several hundred people read verses from the Koran and showered rose petals on Bhutto's grave at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh near his home town of Larkana 320 kilometres north of Karachi.

In Rawalpindi, where Mr. Bhutto was hanged, about 4,000 students gathered at the press club to hear speeches praising Mr. Bhutto and calling on the army to quit politics altogether.

The black, red and green PPP flag flew over the club and posters on the walls showed pictures of Mr. Bhutto, his widow Nusrat and daughter Benazir who heads the party from self-imposed exile in France.

Officials in the five towns affected said the evacuation to higher ground was carried out calmly. Most evacuees were camping in tents.

Civil engineer Pablo Medina, coordinator of the scientific team which monitors the volcano 24 hours a day, said there was a serious risk of the volcano's ice cap melting and triggering avalanches like the one which buried the town of Armero on Nov. 13.

Mayor Joe Hatmann of Maricao, one of the towns affected, told Reuters residents were scared. "Such situations cause anxiety," he said.

Local officials reported initial panic among some residents but emphasised the voluntary evacuation — the first since the Armero disaster — took place with no incidents.

The 5,400-metre volcano has

Hart clears way to run for presidency

DENVER, Colorado (R) — Senator Gary Hart has announced he would not run for re-election to his Senate seat, clearing the way for a full-time bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988.

Sen. Hart, who made an unsuccessful bid for the 1984 nomination, said: "As I forge some role to help move our party and our country into the future, I won't be coy about my plan. Does that mean I am making some announcement about '88? No. Does it mean I still have an interest in being president? Yes."

The two-term Colorado senator was elected in 1974 and in 1980. His seat would have been up for election again this year.

He outlined his plans before some 500 supporters and scores of journalists at a mountain restaurant west of Denver.

Sen. Hart, who won 16 primaries in 1984, retains a skeletal national campaign staff that has been working to pay off his campaign debts. He still owes \$3.5 million from his 1984 dark-horse campaign. Walter Mondale won

only 11 primaries but went to the Democratic convention that year with 2,191 votes to Sen. Hart's 1,200.

With Senator Edward Kennedy's Dec. 19 withdrawal from contention, the U.S. press forecast that 49-year-old Sen. Hart would be the early frontrunner in the race for the nomination.

Sen. Hart's decision not to run again for the Senate represented a calculated political risk, political analysts said. Retirement from the Senate in January, 1987, will free him to be a full-time presidential candidate, but it also means yielding a valuable public platform.

"An argument for staying in the Senate is that it is easier to get your message across," Sen. Hart aide Kevin Sweeney said.

Still, some political analysts believe the full-time candidate has an edge on an officeholder who must split his time between campaigning and fulfilling his official duties.

Sen. Hart's re-election to the Senate was far from assured. He barely survived a 1980 challenge, ending his opponent by just



King Juan Carlos turns 48

MADRID, Spain (AP) — King Juan Carlos turned 48 Sunday, and sources at his Zarzuela Palace residence said hundreds of congratulatory messages were received from all over the world.

The king, who took power on Nov. 22, 1975, two days after the death of Gen. Francisco Franco, was born in Rome Jan. 5, 1938, during the exile of the Spanish royal family following the overthrow of his grandfather, King Alfonso XIII, by the republic in 1931. The king reportedly spent his birthday in private in the palace with Queen Sofia, their three children and other relatives, including ex-king Constantine of Greece and his wife Anne Marie. Constantine is a brother of Queen Sofia.

Prince Andrew is reportedly in love

LONDON (AP) — Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son and Britain's most eligible bachelor, was reported Sunday to be in love with Sarah Ferguson, a Buckingham Palace-approved blood relation whom he has dated since the summer. The couple were first photographed together at the Royal Ascot Race meeting in June. The Sunday tabloid News of the World suggested that wedding bells may be close.

Go fly a kite, rivals in India say

NEW DELHI (R) — Rival groups battling over concessions for India's underprivileged minorities in the western state of Gujarat put passions aside to urge supporters to say with kites. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said kites covered with slogans would take the fight to the skies during a Hindu festival on Jan. 14. More than 230 people were killed between April and July last year when Gujarat was rocked by protests over a policy reserving quotas of jobs and college places for members of minority castes and classes.

Soviets, Americans hold 'citizens' summit'

NEW YORK (R) — A U.S. television network broadcast a 60-minute "citizens' summit" Saturday night featuring an exchange of views by average Americans and Soviets gathered in studios in Seattle and Leningrad. The satellite link-up — the audiences watched each other on giant television screens — was the latest of several such recent promotions designed to engender goodwill and understanding between the peoples of the two superpowers. Pleasantries were bestowed and received, but much of the broadcast deteriorated into arguments over which government is correct in its dealings with its own citizens and the rest of the world. Questions from Americans about Afghanistan, human rights, ended President Andrei Sakharov and the Soviet downing of a Korean airliner were countered by questions about U.S. missiles in Europe, Vietnam and plans to overthrow Nicaragua.

Orang utans go ape at New Year party

JAKARTA (R) — It must have been one of the world's wildest and zaniest New Year parties. The guests at Ulrike Von Mengden's colonial-style hangout in a Jakarta suburb hurled food, wrestled, gobbled mounds of tropical fruit and occasionally urinated over each other. For the 20 invitees were orang utans and most of the revelries took place on a large oil-ming frame of logs bedecked with streamers and tinsel. Von Mengden, who looked on maternally as the apes ran amok, runs an orphanage for the endangered species at her home in the grounds of Jakarta Zoo and for the past seven years she has hosted an ape New Year. Holding a six-month-old orang, born at her house, she said: "They're all my children. It's their big treat."

As she spoke, the mild-tempered orangs burst brightly-colored balloons, frantically unwrapped gifts of peanuts and waffles while struggling at the same time to puzzle as many pieces of mango and papaya as they could. Von Mengden takes in oranges which have been confiscated or found sick in the jungle and brings them up in her garden where they grow to maturity. When they get too big they are transferred to zoos around the world.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWAN SEARF
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A MINOR REVELATION!

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 5 4
♥ A K 10 4
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 7 5

WEST
♠ Q 10
♥ 9 8
♦ A Q 9 7 6 4
♣ K 10 8

EAST
♠ J 3
♥ Q 10 6 2
♦ J 3
♣ J 9 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8 6 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K 10
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠
4 ♠ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♣.

Sometimes a perfectly reasonable action can come back to haunt you. Consider this hand.

After South's third-hand opening bid, West's two diamond overcall is a normal action. Unfortunately, it pointed the way for declarer to make a game that otherwise would probably have failed.

West did not want to lead from either of his minor-suit holdings, and a trump certainly didn't look right. As a compromise, he settled on the nine of hearts. With nothing

else to guide him, declarer would probably have led to the king of diamonds and later tried the club finesse, but it was very likely that West had both the ace of diamonds and king of clubs for his overall. To add to this, the opening lead virtually marked East for the queen of hearts as well as length in the suit.

Therefore, declarer elected to try for an end play. He won the king of hearts, drew two rounds of trumps and was delighted when both defenders followed. After cashing the ace of hearts, he then led a diamond to the ten.

West won, but since he had only two hearts he was caught in declarer's web. He cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the club finesse, but he was too late — he simply discarded his heart loser.

That left West with a choice of losing alternatives. He could either lead a club into declarer's tenace, or continue diamonds, which would allow declarer to sluff a club from the table while ruffing in hand.

Declarer would then be able to ruff his losing clubs on the board.

Whichever defense West opted for, declarer would lose only three diamond tricks. West's foray into the auction brought about an unhappy result for his side.